Vacant Posts in Groups A and B in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

785. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of vacancies of Group 'B' and Group 'A' Officers remained unfilled in the Regional Offices of the KVS located throughout the country for a long period;

(b) if so, what are the categories of vacancies Region-wise and post-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for delay in filling up these vacancies; and

(d) by when these vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) A statement giving the details of vacant Group 'A' and 'B' posts in various Regional Offices is annexed. [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 43].

(c) and (d) Recruitment action is a continuous process and action has been initiated to fill up the posts as per rule.

Schools providing Vocational Education in Orissa

786. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken steps to vocationalise Education Programme;

(b) whether Vocational Education has been introduced by the Central Government in some schools in different States; and

(c) if so, what is the number of schools in Orissa where Vocational Education has been introduced under the Central Scheme so far and also proposed to be introduced during the remaining period of the Seventh Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education has been started in February 1988 to promote vocational courses at +2 stage. Under this scheme financial assistance, is available to States/UTs for starting vocational courses.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In Orissa sanction has so far been given for starting 724 vocational courses in 181 schools. The proposal for 1989-90 has yet to be received from the State Government of Orissa.

Gujarati Fishermen in Pakistani Jails

717. SHRI MIRZA IRSHADBAIG: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 3302 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether it is fact that a number of Gujarati fishermen and boats were kidnapped by Pakistani authorities from the sea of Gujarat Coast and Jakho Harbour and are still in their custody;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representations in this regard; and

(d) if so, what measures have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) Four boats with 33 fishermen were captured on 26.10.88